

Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies, named after AIG's longtime chairman, that Holtz-Eakin now heads.

Holtz-Eakin has become a pivotal player in the behind-the-scenes battle to bring asbestos reform back to the Senate floor because of his residual authority as Congress's former chief accountant. Holtz-Eakin's damaging testimony on the asbestos bill was widely reported.

And the Coalition for Asbestos Reform, an alliance of corporations that oppose Specter's asbestos-reform bill that is lobbying senators on the issue, has pounced on Holtz-Eakin's words as support for their position.

"The testimony of former Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin validates the criticism that the Coalition for Asbestos Reform has made for many months about a federal trust-fund approach to the asbestos litigation situation," the coalition announced in a press release the day of the testimony.

Specter said at the hearing that there was "a 180-degree difference" between what Holtz-Eakin estimated the program would cost as CBO director and his subsequent comment that its cost was highly uncertain. The first time Holtz-Eakin testified it was at Specter's invitation as CBO chief. The second time he was invited by an opponent of the bill, though it is unclear which member sought his testimony.

The coalition, which is funded in part by AIG, identified Holtz-Eakin as an important figure in a planning document it drafted in December. The document quoted Holtz-Eakin's testimony the previous month on the trust fund and suggested portions that could be used to undermine the bill by questioning the accuracy of CBO's cost estimates and bolstering the credence of much-higher-cost projections.

The planning document also identified AIG as one of the nine biggest funders of the Coalition for Asbestos Reform, along with other major insurance firms: Allstate, Hartford Insurance, Liberty Mutual and Nationwide Insurance.

AIG's founder has also provided the bulk of the funding for the geoeconomic-studies center that Holtz-Eakin now heads. The center was endowed with a \$5 million grant from the Starr Foundation in 2000, according to the publicly available 990 form that the foundation submitted to the Internal Revenue Service.

The foundation, in turn, was established by AIG's founder, Cornelius Vander Starr. It earned nearly \$50 million by selling 470,000 shares of AIG in 2000, according to the tax form.

Ken Frydman, foundation spokesman, said the group had no role in hiring Holtz-Eakin to head the Greenberg Center.

Specter asked Holtz-Eakin at this month's hearing if the difference between his earlier and later testimonies was "attributable to [his] position working for the Greenberg Center." But Specter did not discuss the sums of money involved, and news accounts of the hearing did not report Specter's concern.

"I receive no funds from AIG, and my views today are my own," Holtz-Eakin replied. The former CBO chief said that he is merely director of the Greenberg Center and that he is "funded by the Council on Foreign Relations." "And my funding is from the Paul Volcker Chair in International Economics," he added.

The council, too, has received substantial funding from the Starr Foundation. The council has received \$27 million in grants from the foundation since 1960, said Anya Schmemmann, the Council on Foreign Relations' spokeswoman.

Holtz-Eakin defended his conflicting testimony in a recent interview. He said that as

CBO director his job was to put a price tag on legislation, not to give his opinion of bills. He also said that his recent assessment questioning the certainty of the CBO's cost estimates was a personal opinion, something he was not allowed to give as CBO director.

"CBO doesn't take positions; it prices bills," he said. "My personal opinion is that you can't take this bill at face value. I think a future Congress will change it."

Holtz-Eakin said he was required as head of the CBO to take the asbestos-reform bill at face value and assume that the program would sunset when it ran out of money, thereby sparing taxpayers its cost. But as a private citizen, Holtz-Eakin said he is now free to express his opinion that that scenario is unlikely because Congress would rather pay to keep it afloat than let it close.

"These are my views," he said. "I didn't know that Maurice Greenberg had an opinion on the bill."

The Chairman. We now go to the five-minute rounds by members.

Let me begin with you, Dr. Holtz-Eakin. I am a little surprised by the difference in your testimony today from the materials submitted by you when you were Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

The statement which you submitted as head of CBO said, "CBO expects the value of valid claims likely to be submitted to the fund over the next 50 years can be between \$120 billion and \$150 billion."

In the written statement which you submitted for today's hearing, you say, "Both the scale of the mandatory spending and the size of the revenues are highly uncertain."

There is a 180-degree difference between what you and now attributable to your position working for the Greenberg Center, and in effect, AIG?

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. Let me do those in reverse order. First, I am the director of that center. I am funded by the Council on Foreign Relations. My funding is from the Paul Volcker Chair in International Economics. I receive no funds from AIG, and my views today are my own.

The Chairman. Well, let us take up your own views, if you are not influenced by these other factors. How do you account for the statement that you make here that there is mandatory spending, and how do you account for the fact that you say "a future Congress and administration are guaranteed to turn to the taxpayer. How can you say that?"

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. Let me explain. The first statement, when I was Director of CBO, remains true today. It is the case that this will be mandatory spending in the Federal budget. It will not be subject to appropriation. It will fit every common-sense definition of mandatory spending.

The Chairman. It is mandatory until it runs out, Dr. Holtz-Eakin.

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. It will be the case that the legislation provides for a sunset—that is what I said, . . . and that remains true today—automatic, or at the discretion of the administrator, depending on the eyes of the—

The Chairman. Well, is there mandatory spending after the fund runs out?

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. There is a program in place that requires money to be spent.

The Chairman. Wait a minute. Does it require—

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. My judgment—

The Chairman. Wait a minute. Does it require the money to be spent or does it require Congress to act? Now, you say in your oral testimony here, "there will be political pressure to spend" and you challenge the Congress on any fiscal restraint.

How can you say what a Congress in the future will do? Congress will not be obligated

to spend the money once the \$140 billion is gone, will it?

Dr. Holtz-Eakin. The administrator will have the option to terminate the fund, is my reading of it. We can debate whether you think that is correct reading. It is my judgment, and my judgment alone, that in the future Congress would continue this program and an administrator would have an enormous technical difficulty in sunseting it at the appropriate time. It would be very hard to * * *

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINDEN, NEVADA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a historic and important event in Nevada. On July 2, 2006, the town of Minden will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Located in the scenic Carson Valley, Minden is known for its beauty. The Carson Valley Mountain Range provides an imposing, but beautiful, background for the small community of 7,500. Minden is widely known for its small town charm because the town was mapped and planned before a single brick was laid. Visitors and residents of Minden can see the planning even today in the neatly laid streets and buildings. Minden retains its turn-of-the-century feel, and most of the original architecture is still evident in the town.

Like other communities in the Carson Valley, Minden was founded as a result of the railroad. In 1905, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad explored possible locations to expand their rail line. Heinrich Frederick Dangberg, offered to donate land from the H.F. Dangberg Land and Livestock Company for the expansion. The railroad accepted his offer, and Dangberg submitted a plan for the new town to the Douglas County Commissioners in 1906. In choosing a name for the new town, Dangberg honored his birthplace near Minden, Germany.

The Virginia and Truckee Railroad carried gold and silver from the famed Comstock Lode in Virginia City, NV. But by the time of their proposed expansion in 1905, the railroad began to look for new sources of revenue. They found a lucrative revenue source in transporting livestock, and the new branch of the railroad that ran through Minden became the main shipping route for livestock going from San Francisco to Chicago.

With the railroad and other businesses in the town, Minden and the neighboring community of Gardnerville became the center of commerce for the Carson Valley. In 1915, there was a growing sentiment to move the courthouse from Genoa to a more populated area. More than 150 people from the Carson Valley traveled to the state capital to see the Nevada Senate vote to move the county seat to Minden. With the completion of a new courthouse in 1916, Minden replaced Genoa as the county seat of Douglas County.

In 1925, one of the most famous Minden residents, David Derek

Stacton, was born. Over the course of his life, Stacton won wide acclaim as an author and a poet. He was honored as a Guggenheim fellow in 1960 and 1966. Although he passed away at the early age of 41, Stacton left us many critically acclaimed histories on subjects from Napoleon to Nefertiti.

By 1950, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad was struggling, and the operation was closed down. For a town that grew out of the end of the railroad line, this loss was a big change for the community. The people of Minden met this challenge, and other industries soon came to Minden, many of them high-tech firms from California. Among those companies was Bently Industries, the maker of vibration monitoring equipment. Today, a steady wave of high-tech companies continues to relocate to Minden and Douglas County.

This small town—which got its first traffic light in 1985—has managed to move itself into the 21st century, without losing its historic charm. Every June, thousands of Nevadans travel from all over to take part in the Carson Valley Days. Cohosted by Minden and Gardnerville, Carson Valley Days is an annual event with a parade, carnival, live music, truck pull, and arts and crafts. This historic event was started in 1910 by H.F. Dangberg, and it is now in its 96th year.

Mr. President, I am proud to have a town like Minden in my home State, and I congratulate the people of Minden on their 100th anniversary. I encourage all my colleagues in the Senate and all the people of this great country to experience this beautiful and historic part of Nevada.

SALUTING EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the first ever USA Special Olympics National Games will open this Saturday in Ames, IA. Looking ahead to this remarkable gathering of athletes, coaches, and family members from all across America, I want to salute the vision and leadership of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder and honorary chair of Special Olympics International.

No individual in the world is more respected and admired for her tireless advocacy on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. For four decades, Eunice has pursued this advocacy with her trademark passion and tenacity. As executive director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, she has been instrumental in establishing the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, as well as a network of mental retardation research centers at major medical schools across the United States.

In 1968, she established her most enduring legacy, the Special Olympics. Starting in Eunice's own backyard as a day camp for children with mental retardation, it has grown into a global movement that serves more than 2.2

million adults and children with intellectual disabilities in more than 150 countries.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Iowa yield?

Mr. HARKIN. I would be happy to yield to the distinguished senior Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as the Senator from Iowa knows, I am a longtime supporter of the Special Olympics, and a longtime friend and admirer of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her work. This remarkable American is a fine example of President Reagan's observation that you don't have to be on the public payroll in order to be an outstanding public servant.

Anchorage, AK, was proud to host the 2001 Special Olympics Winter Games, which was the largest sporting event ever held in Alaska. In conjunction with that Special Olympics event, I chaired a Committee on Appropriations field hearing on promoting the health of individuals with intellectual disabilities. This was the first hearing of its kind devoted exclusively to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am well aware of that historic hearing. This Saturday in Ames, I will chair a field hearing of the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which will essentially be a followup and update on the Senator's hearing in Anchorage 5 years ago.

And let me just echo the Senator's observation that Eunice Kennedy Shriver, in a voluntary capacity, has been one of America's great public servants. Public officials in Washington have the persuasion of power, but the gentlewoman from Massachusetts has the power of persuasion. She has used that power brilliantly to advance the well being of people with intellectual disabilities all across the world. And I share with the Senator from Alaska and all of our colleagues in the Senate a deep respect and appreciation for Eunice Kennedy Shriver's lifetime of service.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to laud the Senate's unanimous approval of a \$517.6 billion blueprint for the Nation's Armed Forces that expresses Congress's support for the necessary tools for our military fighting throughout the world.

It is critical that our military invest more resources for training, weapons, and technology to meet the new demands placed on it by the war on terror. We need to keep investing in our defense programs that have worked well in the past. We must also make sure that we provide enough resources for research and development, which will ensure that our servicemen and servicewomen are equipped with the best weapons possible. I wish to express my pride in the many Connecticut defense companies and skilled workers

that meet both of these critical demands. Last year, I successfully fought efforts to close Submarine Base New London, because closing the base would have been a threat to our national security and would have put the most skilled defense workers in the world out of work. These irreplaceable workers are key to promoting our national security and developing important innovations that will help protect the lives of our military personnel.

I would like to highlight several provisions of the bill that I believe merit emphasis. Particularly important are additions to submarine design programs and construction at U.S. Submarine Base New London. They provide \$75 million in additional funding for submarine design, \$65 million for improvements to the Virginia class submarine and \$10 million to begin design for the replacement of the nation's Ohio class ballistic missile submarine. This addition will help submarine designers at Electric Boat in my home State of Connecticut. The inclusion of \$9.6 million for a small craft maintenance facility is also a critical step in upgrading the submarine base.

I am particularly heartened by the adoption of an amendment I worked on with Senators BOXER, KENNEDY, and CLINTON to ensure that our soldiers receive the mental health care they need and deserve. The amendment creates a detailed and comprehensive screening process to assess the mental health status of individual soldiers before they are deployed to combat zones and ensures that a soldier who is determined to have symptoms of a mental health condition will be referred to an appropriate qualified mental health care professional for further evaluation. It also mandates timely access to mental health services if requested by a member of the armed forces before, during, or after deployment to a combat zone—within 72 hours after making the request or as soon as possible and requires consent from a qualified mental health care professional before a soldier deemed to have a duty-limiting mental health condition is sent to a combat zone.

We introduced this amendment to protect the health and safety of servicemembers and their units—similar to the ones The Hartford Courant has written about. The military mental health amendment has two purposes. First, it is meant to keep these courageous young men and women out of the way of any further harm. Second, we must make certain that our units have the strongest and healthiest soldiers and this amendment moves us in the right direction.

I also cosponsored an amendment that enables the Air Force to enter into a multiyear contract beginning in fiscal year 2007 for 60 F-22 aircraft over 3 years. Moving to multiyear contract will save American taxpayers more than \$250 million.

To ensure military families do not have to face the burdens of rising pharmaceutical copays for TRICARE next